

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF WAKEFIELD,

FROM FEB. 20, 1857, TO FEB. 20, 1858.

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BOSTON:

GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, CITY PRINTERS,

No. 3, CORNHILL.

1858.



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# REPORT.

*Town of Wakefield, in Account with the Selectmen for the year  
ending February 20, 1858.*

To amount paid the State Treasurer,	\$199 50	
“ “ “ “ County “	362 78	
		<u>\$562 28</u>

Amount paid the several School Districts:

Dist. No. 1.	George F. Piper,	-	\$100 95	
“ “ 2.	George H. Wiggin,	-	40 00	
“ “ 3.	John A. Cook,	- -	55 25	
“ “ 4.	Enoch E. Sanborn,	-	65 36	
“ “ 5.	John Farnham,	- -	70 46	
“ “ 6.	John C. Philbrick and S. G. Wentworth,	-	56 07	
“ “ 7.	Joseph Titcomb,	-	48 58	
“ “ 8.	Thomas J. Dearborn,		59 56	
“ “ 9.	Reuben Sanborn,	-	88 86	
“ “ 10.	Nathan J. Weeks,	-	50 54	
“ “ 11.	Jonathan Woodman,	-	15 70	
John Tibbets for Edward B. Tibbets's school tax,	- - - - -		1 02	
				<u>\$652 35</u>

John H. Merrill, School Commissioner for Carroll County,	- - - - -		<u>\$11 40</u>
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Amount paid for the support of Paupers for the year ending  
February 20, 1858:

Paid Mrs. C. A. Chapman, for making clothes for	
Stephen Jenness, - - - - -	\$2 25
William Powell, for making pants, - \$1 00	
Canvass, thread and buttons, - - 25	
2 galk. molasses, - - - - 74	
	<hr/>
	1 99
Joseph Malcham, for 2,220 cwt. of hay, - -	16 65
Town of Milton, for supplies furnished Ebenezer Jenness and family, - - - - -	24 70
Joseph Smith, for boarding Benj. Dore, 7 weeks,	7 00
Charles Moulton, for house rent and moving Car- roll family, - - - - -	3 00
Samuel H. Smith's bill, in part, - - - -	24 54
Swinerton & Perkins's, for 20 lbs. flour, \$1 00	
7 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. pork, - - - - - 1 08	
16 bushels corn, - - - - - 17 50	
1 scythe, - - - - - 92	
	<hr/>
	20 50
Peter Cook, for services as superintendent of town farm, in part, - - - - -	112 32
Jonathan Woodman, for 1 bl. flour, - - -	9 00
Ezekiel Varney, in full for his services as super- intendent of town farm, - - - - -	32 39
City of Dover, for support of Mrs. Mahala Weeks,	16 33
Enoch E. Sanborn, for 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. sole leather, \$1 23	
2 pairs boots, - - - - - 6 75	
	<hr/>
	7 98
Charles P. Carter, for cloth for Stephen Jenness,	2 33
Charles A. Wentworth, for assistance furnished E. Carroll and Mrs. Smith, - - - - -	27 00
Thomas Chapman, for support of James Quimby,	11 00
George C. Whiting, for carting flour, &c., - -	45
Jere'h C. Buck, for professional services for Car- roll family, - - - - -	8 58
	<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$328 01



<i>Amount brought forward,</i>		\$328 01
John W. Sanborn, for pair shoes for Stephen		
Jeness, - - - - -	\$1 50	
1 cow, - - - - -	33 00	
		<hr/> 34 50
Joseph P. Gilman, for 2 bushels corn, - -		2 40
William H. Pike, for 1 cord of wood for Carroll,		1 75
Robert H. Pike, for boarding Mrs. Smith and		
children, - - - - -		1 00
Charles A. Wentworth, for expenses in going to		
Hooksett, in relation to pauper, -	\$2 75	
Horse and sleigh, 50 miles, - - -	4 50	
		<hr/> 7 25
Town of Hooksett, for support of Miss Abby		
Wentworth, - - - - -		38 50
Stephen D. Hutchins, for supplies furnished Jotham		
Willard, - - - - -		2 16
Charles Chesley, for weighing hay, - - -		37
Samuel S. Parker, for boarding Miss Abby Went-		
worth, 5 weeks, - - - - -		5 00
Wentworth L. Young, for 75 lbs. fish, \$3 00		
8 lbs. tobacco, - - - - -	1 62	
4 lbs. S. tea, - - - - -	2 00	
2 hoes, - - - - -	1 25	
40 crackers, - - - - -	25	
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. pepper, - - - - -	13	
1 pint oil, - - - - -	15	
1 bed cord, - - - - -	42	
6 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards sheeting, - - - - -	71	
1 paper garden seeds, - - - - -	05	
1 vest, - - - - -	1 17	
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards gingham, - - - - -	56	
1 bag salt, - - - - -	28	
8 skeins yarn, - - - - -	80	
1 plow point, - - - - -	54	
6 lbs. nails, - - - - -	30	
		<hr/>
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	\$13 23	\$420 94

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$13 23	\$420 94
1 lb. candles, - - - - -	17	
$\frac{1}{2}$ bushel salt, - - - - -	38	
$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. saltpetre, - - - - -	04	
	<u>\$13 82</u>	
Cr. By butter, - - - - -	1 28	
		<u>12 54</u>
John Tredick, for 1 linen coat, - - -	\$0 75	
107 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. pork, - - - - -	16 13	
1 yard sheeting, - - - - -	10	
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. lard, - - - - -	75	
		<u>17 73</u>
Samuel W. Roberts, for professional services, -		2 88
Daniel Brackett, for 1 ox yoke, - - -		1 00
Jonathan Woodman, for assistance furnished John Clay, - - - - -		1 00
John W. Sanborn, for one pair oxen, - - -		115 00
Warren Nutter, for 2 bushels seed wheat, - -		5 00
Isaac D. Watson, for making hay cart, \$1 00		
6 lights of window sash, - - - - -	18	
2 lbs. putty, - - - - -	16	
2 axe handles, - - - - -	25	
Filing saw, - - - - -	13	
		<u>1 72</u>
Amount of pauper bills added and brought forward,	\$577 81	
Amount paid for the repairs of Roads and Bridges for the year ending Feb. 20, 1858.		
Paid Nathan J. Weeks, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day on road, -		\$0 50
James L. Libbey, for 1 day's labor on road, -		1 00
Enoch E. Sanborn, for 1 day's labor on road, -		1 00
Nahum Nason, for timber and labor on bridge, near D. Copp's house, - - - - -	\$6 00	
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ days' labor on bridge, near James Garvin's house, - - - - -	5 50	
		<u>11 50</u>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$14 00	



<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$14 00
John Davis, for $5\frac{1}{2}$ days' labor on bridge, near James Garvin's house, - - - - -	5 50
Samuel F. Lane, for $2\frac{1}{4}$ days' labor on bridge, near Copp's mill, - - - - -	2 25
John W. Sanborn, for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days' labor on bridges,	4 58
Nathaniel Lovejoy, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day on bridge, - -	50
Chas. A. Wentworth, for 4 days on roads, \$5 00	
Repairing bridge, - - - - - 1 00	
	<hr/> 6 00
Joseph Hanson, for 7 days' labor on road, \$7 00	
1 days' labor on bridge, - - - - - 75	
Timber for bridge, - - - - - 1 25	
	<hr/> 9 00
Charles Dore, for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days, on road, cart, &c., -	2 25
John F. Weeks, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day on road, - - -	50
William B. Wentworth, for 6 days' labor on bridge, near James Garvin's house, - -	7 00
Mark Wentworth, for 5 days' labor on road, -	5 00
Charles J. Cottle, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day on road, - -	50
John Clark, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day on road, - - - -	50
Brackett & Loud, for labor on road, - - -	5 00
Nathaniel Meserve, for 564 feet plank, - -	5 64
Jacob Locke, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day on road, - - -	50
Charles H. Moulton, for 1 day on bridge, - -	1 00
James Thompson, for 9 days' labor on road and bridge, - - - - -	8 75
Joseph Page for labor on road, - - - -	50
Robert S. Corson, for 1 day on bridge, - -	1 00
Phineas J. Weeks, for 2 days on road, - -	2 00
Lewis Plumer, for drawing bridge timber, - -	1 50
Albra Wentworth, for $\frac{1}{2}$ day on bridge, - -	50
Asa W. Hill, for finding timber and repairing bridge, - - - - -	1 50
Enoch W. Plumer, for 56 feet oak timber, - -	1 00
Theophilus Gilman, for timber for bridge, - -	4 80
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$91 27

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$91 27
Warren Nutter, for 6 days' labor on bridge near James Thompson's house, - - - \$6 00	
3 days' labor on bridge, - - - 3 00	
1 day's labor on road, - - - 50	
	<hr/> 9 50
Jonathan Buzzell, for 63 feet plank, - - -	63
Benj. C. Fellows, for 1 day on bridge, \$1 00	
Blacksmith work for bridge, - - 1 50	
	<hr/> 2 50
Newall W. Horn, for labor on road, - - -	1 92
David B. Jones, for 8 days' labor on bridge, near James Garvin's house, - - - - -	8 81
Davis & Durgin, for 5 lbs. nails, - - -	25
John Wingate, for board furnished the laborers on bridge near his house, - - - - -	7 51
Robert McDaniels, for $1\frac{3}{4}$ days' on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - - - -	2 62
James Young, for $5\frac{1}{2}$ days on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - - - -	5 94
Paul Wentworth, for $4\frac{1}{2}$ days on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - - \$5 62	
Rocks for bridge, - - - - 1 50	
	<hr/> 7 12
Isaac D. Watson, for 4 days on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - - - \$5 00	
Rocks for bridge, - - - - 1 50	
	<hr/> 6 50
James Hill, for building bridge, - - .	5 00
Mayhew C. Davis, for $4\frac{1}{4}$ days on bridge, near James Garvin, - - - - \$5 75	
Blacksmith work for bridge, - - 50	
	<hr/> 6 25
James Garvin, for board furnished laborers on bridge, - - - - -	8 67
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/> \$164 49

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$164 49
Joshua H. Cloutman, for 871 feet plank,	\$7 84
500 feet oak timber, - - -	5 80
112 feet pine timber, - - -	1 12
5½ days' labor on bridge, - - -	5 50
	<hr/>
	20 26
James Young, 2d, for 5 days' labor on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - -	\$6 24
Plank, - - - - -	33
Cart on bridge, &c., - - - -	50
100 lbs. of hay, - - - - -	75
	<hr/>
	7 82
Joseph G. Philbrick, for repairing tools used on bridge, - - - - -	44
Hiram R. Waldron, for 6½ days' labor on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - -	\$7 02
Drawing bridge timber, - - - -	3 00
	<hr/>
	10 02
Levi W. Watson, for 11½ days' labor on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - -	\$14 06
Getting derrick and returning the same, -	1 62
Board, - - - - -	67
	<hr/>
	16 35
David W. Libbey, for 2 days on bridge at Prov- ince pond, - - - - -	\$2 00
8 days on bridge near Jas. Garvin's house, -	8 64
1½ days on road, - - - - -	1 25
	<hr/>
	11 89
Daniel Brackett, for 700 feet plank, - - -	7 00
James & Asa F. Horn, for 2,750 feet timber and plank, - - - - -	34 37
Joseph S. Wentworth, for 5 days on bridge near James Garvin's house, - - - - -	6 25
Estate of George W. Copp, for 3,507 feet of pine plank, - - - - -	\$45 37
4 oxen ¾ day, - - - - -	1 50
	<hr/>
	46 87
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$219 38



<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$219 38
John A. Cook, for 1 day on road, - - -	1 00
Jonathan Woodman, for 3 days on road in Mark Wentworth's district, - - - \$3 75	
2 days on roads, - - - - - 2 50	
8½ days, building bridge near Jas. Gar- vin's house, - - - - - 10 62	
Repairing bridge near John Dore's house, 50	
Drawing and setting 2 stone guide posts, 1 00	
344 feet plank, - - - - - 2 75	
3 bridge stringers, - - - - - 2 25	
	<hr/>
	23 37
Alfred Woodman, for 8½ days on bridge, near Jas. Garvin's house, - - - - - \$10 62	
1 day, on bridge near Meserve mill, - 1 00	
Repairing bridge, - - - - - 50	
	<hr/>
	12 12
Isaac D. Watson, for repairing bridge, \$0 50	
5 days on road, - - - - - 5 00	
	<hr/>
	5 50
William H. Pike, for 36 feet plank, - - -	36
	<hr/>
Amount of road bills added, and brought forward,	<u>\$368 11</u>
Amount paid on Outstanding Bills due prior to Feb. 20, 1857.	
Paid Moses Perkins, for labor on road, - - -	\$3 50
Chesley Jenness, for 3 days on Chase Perkins' bridge, - - - - - - - - -	3 75
Josiah P. Hobbs, for land taken for road in 1856,	2 50
Joshua Brooks, for land taken for road laid out in 1848, - - - - - - - - -	8 00
Alvah Bickford, for school money, Dist. No. 3, -	80 00
Francis Berry, school money for District No. 5, -	50 19
William A. Malcham, school money, Dist. No. 2,	85 99
John A. Cook, for 2½ days' labor on road, - - -	2 00
	<hr/>
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	\$235 93

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$235 93
G. H. & S. E. Twombly, for printing town accounts, and superintending School Committee's Report, - - - - -	26 00
Benjamin C. Fellows, for labor on Macklin bridge, 5 days, - - - - - \$6 25	
Cart wheels and plough, - - - - - 75	
	<hr/>
John K. Fellows, for 3½ days on Macklin bridge,	7 00
Warren Nutter, for digging grave, making box, &c., for Lydia Varney, - - - - -	4 37
Paul Wentworth, for labor on road, - - - - -	1 75
George Gage, for 570 feet of plank, - - - - -	1 75
Joseph G. Evans, for 3½ days on Kimball road, -	6 84
Aaron Nason, for 1½ day on road, - - - - -	3 50
John J. Horn, for repairing bridge, - - - - -	1 50
Alpheus Nutter, for that portion of ministerial fund due the 2d Freewill Baptist Society, for 1855-6, - - - - -	1 00
Isaac T. Clark, for abatement on his list for 1855,	11 94
John Farnham, for balance on school house tax in District No. 5, - - - - -	91
Francis Berry, for ministerial fund due the South Freewill Baptist Society, for 1856, - - - - -	2 84
Luther P. Horne, for money hired of him, -	
Amasa Copp, for the services of Peter Cook, as superintendent of Town Farm, in 1856, -	5 97
Nathaniel Meserve, for school money due District No. 6, for 1856, - - - - -	158 37
Samuel C. Adams, for 1 pair of boots, for Dan. Quimby, - - - - -	105 31
Frederick A. Copp, for services superintending School Committee for 1856, - - - - -	65 36
Simon M. Young, for services as superintending School Committee, - - - - -	3 50
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/>
	\$668 84

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$668 84
George W. Came, for services in superintending School Committee, - - - - -	15 00
F. A. Copp, for necessities furnished town paupers in 1854, - - - - -	1 00
John L. Wiggin, for one year's interest on a note he holds against the town, - - - - -	6 30
Daniel W. Barber, for ministerial fund, due the Methodist Society, for 1855, - - - - -	17 91
Ezra Wentworth, Jr., in part for his services as superintendent of town farm, in 1856, - - -	15 00
Amasa Copp, for professional services at Court, on petitions of Warren Nutter, and Mark Roberts, for new roads in Nov. 1856, - - - -	6 00
1854.	
James Garvin, for repairing bridge, -	\$0 25
19 lbs. veal, - - - - -	76
1855.	
13½ lbs. veal, - - - - -	76
6¼ lbs. fish, - - - - -	25
Cut of leather, - - - - -	50
1½ bushels corn, - - - - -	2 00
25¼ lbs. beef, - - - - -	1 50
11 lbs. beef, - - - - -	99
2 lbs. candles, - - - - -	36
Use of bull, - - - - -	25
	<hr/>
	7 62
Andrew Whittemore, for 791 lbs. hay, -	\$4 75
Oxen to plow, - - - - -	50
109 feet plank, - - - - -	1 37
Lot of wood, - - - - -	2 50
	<hr/>
	\$9 12
Cr. By 3 bushels potatoes, - - -	1 50
	<hr/>
	7 62
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<hr/>
	\$745 29



<i>Amount brought forward,</i>				\$745 29
John R. Brown, for labor on road,	-	\$1	80	
Plank and labor on road,	- - -	3	00	
				<hr/> 4 80
James L. Wentworth, for work done for Daniel Quimby,	- - - - -			1 67
Isaac N. Fellows, for the following abatements on his list for 1856.				
Benjamin Cook,	- - - -	\$3	66	
Charles Cobbet,	- - - -	1	54	
Samuel L. Dame,	- - - -	1	54	
Mrs. A. Gilman,	- - - -	1	29	
David R. Jones,	- - - -	1	54	
John Mathes,	- - - -	4	80	
Isaac Welch,	- - - -	3	75	
John D. Waldron,	- - - -	1	54	
Stephen Waldron,	- - - -	1	63	
Heirs of Jonathan Welch,	- - -		51	
John R. Brown,	- - - -		44	
				<hr/> 22 24
Am't of Outstanding Bills added and brought for'd,				<u>\$774 00</u>

Amount paid on sundry bills for the year ending  
Feb. 20th, 1858.

Thos. J. Dearborn, for making guide boards, twenty-two directions,	- -	\$16 50	
Setting posts, nailing on boards, &c.,	-	50	
One cord of wood,	- - - -	2 50	
			<hr/> \$19 50
Pine River Bank, for discount on note,	-		9 15
Jonathan Woodman, for cash paid out at sundry times,	- - - -	0 75	
Cash paid for expenses before the County Commissioners, on petition of Mark Roberts and others for new road	-	3 85	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>		\$4 60	<u>\$28 65</u>

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$4 60	\$28 65
Cash paid C. A. Woodman, for conveying		
Nath. Burbank to almshouse, - - -	50	
3 days' perambulating town lines, - -	4 50	
		9 60
L. D. Sinclair, for stove, &c., - - -	-	4 77
E. J. Lane, for stationery, - - -	-	3 12
Chas. A. Wentworth, for perambulating		
town line, - - - - -	-	2 25
John W. Sanborn, for expenses in going		
to Ossipee, to get inquisition had on D.		
Quimby, - - - - -	\$0 50	
Horse and sleigh, - - - - -	1 25	
Expenses in going to Gt. Falls, to get		
money for town, - - - - -	1 50	
Expenses in going to Conway, to get guar-		
dian appointed for D. Quimby, - -	2 50	
Horse and gig, - - - - -	3 00	
Perambulating town lines, 4 days making		
returns, &c., - - - - -	5 00	
Interest on money loaned the town, -	1 50	
Cash paid for postage for the year, -	36	
		15 61
Chas. E. Brackett, for revising militia		
roll, - - - - -	-	2 00
Chas. C. Hayes, for surveying line be-		
tween Milton and Wakefield, - -	-	50
R. R. Davis, for surveying line between Wolfboro'		
and Wakefield, - - - - -	-	50
James W. Hill, for town farm tax for 1857, -	-	5 59
Note to Gt. Falls Bank, - - - - -	-	301 70
Amount of sundry bills added and brought for-		
ward, - - - - -	-	\$374 29

Amount paid for the services of town officers for  
the year ending Feb. 20th, 1858.

Nathaniel Barker, for services as superintending School Committee, - - - - -	\$18 00
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Jonathan Woodman, for services as one  
of the Selectmen.

March.

1 day at office and almshouse, - -	\$1 00
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Approving Constable's bonds, - -	50
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April.

5 days' taking inventory, - - -	7 50
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Dividing towns' liquor, &c., - - -	1 00
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5 days' making taxes, - - -	5 00
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Hiring superintendent of town farm, -	1 00
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2 days' on road lists, - - -	2 00
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Approving Collector's bond, - - -	50
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1 day examining roads, - - -	1 00
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Recording inventory and tax lists, - -	5 00
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May.

1 day on town business, - - -	1 00
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1 day distributing surveyor's lists, -	1 00
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1 day at office, - - -	1 00
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1 day examining roads, - - -	1 00
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Buying 2 bushels seed wheat, and carry- ing the same to almshouse, - -	50
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June.

1 day at almshouse settling with E. Var- ney, and hiring Peter Cook; - -	1 00
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$\frac{1}{2}$ day at office, dividing school money, &c.,	50
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Buying grass, &c. of Adam Brown, -	1 00
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Sept.

3 days' at Effingham, before the County  
Commissioners, on petition of Mark

Roberts and others for new road, -	4 50
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<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	<u>\$36 00</u>	<u>\$18 00</u>
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<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$36 00	\$18 00
Dec.		
Notifying land owners on Noah Horn's road, - - - - -	1 00	
1 day on Noah Horn's road, - - - - -	1 00	
Dec.		
Revising jury box, - - - - -	50	
Feb.		
Making check list, - - - - -	1 00	
6 days, settling town accounts and preparing the same for publication, - - -	6 00	
		45 50
John W. Sanborn, for services as one of the Selectmen.		
March.		
Making petition and attending Probate Court at Ossipee, to get inquisition had on D. Quimby, - - - - -	\$1 50	
1½ days at the Selectmen's office, - - -	1 50	
Making notice, notifying Daniel Quimby, -	1 00	
Going to Gt. Falls, to get some money for the town, - - - - -	1 00	
April.		
Attending Probate Court at Conway to get guardian appointed for D. Quimby, -	2 50	
2½ days taking inventory, - - - - -	3 75	
5 days making taxes, - - - - -	5 00	
Making warrants for meetings in school districts Nos. 2 and 10, attending meetings, &c., - - - - -	1 50	
Making Collector's book, - - - - -	1 50	
Appointing Collector and making bond, -	50	
1 day on roads, - - - - -	1 00	
Distributing Surveyor's lists, - - - - -	1 00	
1 day examining roads and bridges, -	1 00	
<i>Amounts carried forward,</i>	\$22 75	\$63 50

<i>Amounts brought forward,</i>	\$22 75	\$63 50
Making county pauper account and taking affidavits, - - - - -	1 00	
1 day at office, - - - - -	1 00	
June.		
1½ days' examining bridges, - - -	1 50	
Going to almshouse twice, hiring Peter Cook, &c., - - - - -	1 00	
1 day at almshouse and office, - - -	1 00	
July.		
1 day at office, dividing school money, &c.,	1 00	
Sept.		
1 day at Effingham, before the County Commissioners, on the petition of Mark Roberts and others for new road, -	1 50	
Oct.		
Making notices and notifying the towns of Milton, Middleton, Brookfield, Ossipee and Effingham, to perambulate the town lines, - - - - -	1 00	
Nov.		
Taking Edward Carroll's affidavit, - -	50	
Dec.		
Examining route for road near N. Horn's house, - - - - -	1 00	
½ day at the south part of the town, -	50	
Revising jury box, - - - - -	50	
Examining records in relation to David Emerson, - - - - -	2 00	
Feb.		
Carrying pauper to almshouse, buying stove, &c., - - - - -	1 00	
Making check list, - - - - -	1 00	
Making warrant for town meeting, &c., -	1 00	
Settling town accounts, and preparing the same for publication, - - - - -	6 00	
	<hr/>	45 50
3 <i>Am't carried forward,</i>		\$109 00

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$109 00
Charles A. Wentworth, for services as one of the Selectmen.	
$\frac{1}{2}$ day at office, - - - - -	\$0 50
1 day at almshouse and office, - - - - -	1 00
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days' taking inventory, - - - - -	3 75
5 days' making taxes, - - - - -	5 00
1 day at almshouse and examining roads, - - - - -	1 00
2 days' on road tax - - - - -	2 00
$\frac{1}{2}$ day at office, - - - - -	50
Distributing Surveyor's lists, - - - - -	1 00
Carrying pauper to almshouse, - - - - -	50
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ days' at office, - - - - -	1 50
Setting guide posts, - - - - -	50
Attending jury meeting, - - - - -	50
Carrying pauper to almshouse, - - - - -	1 00
1 day examining road, - - - - -	1 00
Moving Carroll family, - - - - -	1 50
Revising jury box, - - - - -	50
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ days' going to Hooksett, in relation to pauper, - - - - -	2 50
Settling town accounts and preparing the same for publication, - - - - -	6 00
	<hr/>
	30 25
Jonathan Woodman, for services as Town Treasurer, - - - - -	3 00
Hiram Paul, for expenses of Selectmen, - - - - -	24 67
	<hr/>
	<u>\$166 67</u>

*Recapitulation,*

Paid State and County taxes, - - - - -	\$562 28
The several School Districts, - - - - -	652 35
County School Commissioners, - - - - -	11 40
For the support of paupers, - - - - -	577 81
For repairing roads and bridges, - - - - -	368 11
On outstanding bills, - - - - -	774 00
On sundry bills, - - - - -	374 29
For the services of town officers, - - - - -	166 67
	<hr/>
	<u>\$3,486 91</u>



*Credit.*

Received of Jonathan Buzzell, -	\$251 53	
Great Falls Bank, - - -	292 35	
County of Carroll, - - -	13 85	
Pine River Bank, - - -	293 85	
William Blake, - - -	2 00	
Great Falls Bank, - - -	293 85	
Enoch E. Sanborn, for potatoes,	3 00	
Alfred Woodman, for potatoes,	3 00	
John W. Sanborn, for oxen, -	95 00	
Peter Cook, for disconnt on his wages, for money received be- fore the same was due, - -	2 54	
Samuel Cook, - - - -	5 50	
James Tuttle, - - - -	1 50	
Daniel Brackett, for potatoes, -	2 00	
Amasa Copp, for cow hide, -	3 50	
State Treasurer, for literary fund,	107 91	
Railroad tax, - - - -	21 87	
William Sawyer, jr., for interest on surplus revenue fund, - -	28 76	
Isaac N. Fellows, on his list for 1856, - - - -	169 11	
Ja's W. Hill, on his list for 1857,	2,006 00	
Peter Cook, for 50 lbs. pork, -	7 50	
" " for calf, - - - -	6 00	
		3,610 62
Whole amount received, - - -	3,610 62	
Whole amount paid out, - - -	3,486 91	
Leaving a balance in the hands of the Town Treasurer, of - - -	123 71	

*Debtor.*

Due the several School districts, for one year's interest of School fund,	\$44 25
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<i>\$44 25</i>

<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$44 25
The several religious societies, for	
1857, - - - - -	53 73
The Methodist society for 1856,	17 91
School District No. 2, - -	87 03
" " " 3, - -	1 68
" " " 4, - -	5 89
" " " 6, - -	13 91
" " " 9, - -	33
Will be due Isaac N. Fellows, when he	
settles his list, - - -	15 00
James W. Hill, when he settles his	
list, - - - - -	14 50
Amasa Coop, for the balance on the	
services of Peter Cook and wife,	
as superintendents of town farm,	
April 14, 1858, provided said Cook	
shall remain on said farm to said	
time, - - - - -	85 56
Great Falls Bank, June 5, 1858,	300 00
Pine River Bank, July 21, 1858,	300 00
James Young, 2d, - - -	62 74
George H. Wiggin, - - -	47 67
John L. Wiggin, - - -	111 00
George L. Wentworth, - - -	36 40
Adam Brown, for hay and the ser-	
vices of Ezra Wentworth, jr.,	
in 1856, - - - - -	125 00
The estate of Alfred Woodman,	58 30
Samuel H. Smith, - - -	30 84

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1,411 74

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*Credit.*

By money due the town of Wakefield,			
from Daniel Young, - - -	\$2	50	
The County of Carroll, - - -	103	00	
George H. Wiggin, for liquors, -	59	58	
Jonathan Woodman, for liquors,	9	74	
Daniel Brackett, as guardian for			
Daniel Quimby, - - -	115	00	
I. N. Fellows, on his list for 1856,	154	26	
Ja's W. Hill, on his list for 1857,	440	98	
Town Treasurer, - - -	123	71	
Alvah Buzzell, - - -	7	00	
			<u>\$1,015 77</u>
Leaving a balance against the town, of - -			<u>\$395 97</u>

All of which is most respectfully submitted, by

JONATHAN WOODMAN,	}	SELECTMEN OF WAKEFIELD.
JOHN W. SANBORN,		
CHAS. A. WENTWORTH,		

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Feb. 24, 1858. We, the subscribers, Auditors for the town of Wakefield, have carefully examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen, for the year 1857, and find them correctly cast, and well vouched.

EBENEZER GARVIN, Jr.  
HIRAM PAUL.



Amount paid for support of paupers, from Feb. 20, 1857, to  
Feb. 20, 1858.

Amount paid out, - - - - -	\$577 81	
Due superintendent, - - - - -	85 56	
Interest on the estimated value of farm and stock, - - - - -	75 00	
	<hr/>	\$738 37

Amount received from town farm for the year  
ending Feb. 20, 1858.

From Peter Cook, for calf, &c., -	\$16 04	
Amasa Copp, for cowhide, -	3 50	
“ “ for potatoes, -	8 00	
“ “ for oxen, -	95 00	
Due from the County of Carroll, -	103 00	
D. Brackett, as guardian for Dan- iel Quimby, - - - - -	115 00	
	<hr/>	340 54
Showing the true amount for the support of pau- pers for the year, to be - - - - -		<u>\$397 83</u>

#### *Stock at Almshouse.*

3 cows, 1 hog, 200 lbs. pork, 175 lbs. beef, 30 lbs. butter,  
8 lbs. lard, 10 cords wood, 8 doz. candles, 4 tons hay, 3 bbls.  
apples, 2 bushels wheat, 175 lbs. flour, 2 bushels corn meal,  
50 bushels potatoes.

#### *Paupers' Names.*

MALES.	AGE.	FEMALES.	AGE.
James Quimby, -	63	Dolly Quimby, -	74
Daniel Quimby, -	72	Mehitable Quimby, -	52
Nathaniel Burbank, -	51	Mercy Emerson, -	77
David Emerson, -	81	Mary Wentworth, -	47
		Sally Hodgdon, -	58

# REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF WAKEFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR 1857-58.

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The Committee to whom was intrusted the supervision of the District Schools the past year, respectfully submit to the citizens of the town the following

## REPORT:

Defects that have been discovered in our common schools have been loudly proclaimed throughout the State, and they have been made the subject of severe criticism. Remedies, too, for such defects have been devised — improvements have been introduced by public acts of the State Legislatures — by the combined counsels and recommendations of an efficient Board of Education, and by the active and untiring efforts of the friends of education in every part of the State. And, should your Committee, in order to save our own schools from merited reproach, or for any other reason, call in question the justice of some of the criticisms that have been made upon the “common school as it was,” or “as it is,” he might subject himself to the charge of becoming “a conservative in education,” or of adopting the views of a certain class, who regard all such criticism as the exaggerations of would-be reformers. This we would not do; nor would we excuse or palliate the remissness that has so long prevailed in this community.

It must be confessed that for several years past the citizens of Wakefield have not been a very progressive people, either in efforts to effect a moral reform, or to promote the interests of education. Other communities have caught the spirit that

has been abroad in the land, and they have awaked to a deeper sense of their responsibility, and met the claims made upon their liberality. They have built suitable houses for the accommodation of their schools, after the best models—in many cases elegant and costly houses. They have, too, sought for teachers of the best qualifications, and supplied the various means that are essential to the highest prosperity of schools. In every direction there may be witnessed some indications of a deeper interest in the cause of education. But the wave which has carried an impulse to other minds, has passed by us, and the condition of our schools remains essentially the same. In some instances improvements have been made by the successful labors of good teachers. But in an enterprise so vitally important to the best interests of the town, little more than the amount absolutely required by law has been expended for a course of years. The accommodations for our schools have not been materially improved. But while all this is true in regard to the present state and prospects of our own schools, we find it difficult to adopt some of the views, even of the honored Secretary of the Board of Education, contained in his last Report.

After describing some of the ways in which he would have our schools made "vastly better," he assumes that "if all our teachers for two hundred years had been in heart and head what they ought to have been, to-day we should have had no need of an organized police in any city, a prison, an asylum, or a house of correction in any State." "That none but *professional* teachers, who have entered upon the work with a right spirit, and after a long and careful preparation, ought to be intrusted with the care of a *single pupil for a single term*." He then asserts that "most of the money paid out annually for our schools is worse than wasted." Such declarations, to say the least, seem to be gratuitous, rather than practical; they savor more of the views of an ultraist, than of the balancings of the sound mind, mature judgment of the educator who presides in the counsels of the honorable Board of



Education, who are laboring assiduously to promote the best interests of primary schools.

In describing the faults which are to be found in our schools by an attempt to say things that are startling, he has taken positions from which a candid mind will start back. Is it true that most of the money paid out annually for the support of schools is worse than wasted? Is it true that none but *professional* teachers ought to have the care of one pupil? We do most cordially approve of all the efforts made to raise the standard of qualifications for teachers. We regard it as very desirable that teaching should be made a profession, by larger numbers of thoroughly qualified teachers; but in the very nature of the case, it is not to be expected that such teachers can be furnished for the whole State. A large proportion of the inhabitants are scattered among granite hills, where the population is so sparse that such teachers cannot be sustained. And yet in such places are the fields in which they sometimes "raise men."

Is it just to regard those who seek the employment of teachers for a limited period only, and make this "a stepping stone to other professions," as worse than useless, and "not to be tolerated?"

Is it generous thus to implicate a large class of living teachers, and yet thousands more, whose labors have been of inestimable importance during past generations. Many such teachers have served their turn in our own State, and they have rendered an important service. Many of them were useful, earnest teachers, who manifested a love for their work. And what if in their times they "taught words and not objects," they had brains enough to explain their meaning, and to go through with the regular drill of the schools in such a way as to excite youthful minds to vigorous application, and to lay a strong foundation for useful character.

There were "giants in those days;" and some have tried to stand upon their shoulders while attempting to promulgate their own far-reaching endeavors. All credit—all honor for

modern improvements in the methods of teaching; but let us not condemn the unrewarded services of the benefactors of past time.

The teachers employed in our own schools during the past year have been drawn from that class on whom the ban has been put by the honorable Secretary. Some of their number had, however, had experience, and "by teaching, had learned to teach" with good success. Others were new in this employment.

With what we regard as a just estimate of the average results, we are happy to testify that their work has been performed with some good degree of success.

#### DISTRICT No. 1.

The summer school was kept by Miss Mary E. Gilman. The work of the teacher was faithfully performed to the general satisfaction of the district, and with manifest success. The teacher of the winter term, was Miss Mary E. Wiggin. This school, when visited, was found in a progressive state. Good discipline was maintained, and an awakened interest in the pupils was manifest; the general improvement, good. This school is composed principally of young scholars, comparatively backward; but when provided with a suitable house, it may, under the genial influence of good teachers, who can awaken and successfully guide the energies of youthful minds, be raised to its former position. Summer school, length,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  weeks. Winter school, length, 10 weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 2.

The summer school was kept by Miss Mary E. Wiggin. This school, like all others, but perhaps more than most others, requires the untiring efforts and patience of its teachers. To keep usefully employed so many active minds of children and youth, some of whom have made good attainments for their years, and to bring them under proper discipline, is a work that involves a trial of wisdom, and skillful

inventions. Miss Wiggin was successful in the management of her school. It afforded evidence of commendable improvement at its close.

Teacher of the winter term, Mr. Augustus W. Wiggin. This teacher was found well qualified, as it respects literary attainments, and although he had been a pupil in the school during past years, he discharged his duty to the general satisfaction of the district. No spirit of insubordination interrupted the prosperity of the school; the improvement of scholars who were constant in their attendance was good. We love to see indication of neatness, as well as order, in the school-room, and we regret that the condition of the school house in this district, as well as in No. 1, is such as can afford to teachers but little encouragement in their efforts to inculcate that virtue.

Summer school, length, 13 weeks. Winter school, length, 13 weeks.

### DISTRICT NO. 3.

This district had but one term. Teacher, Miss Emily A. Wingate. The school in this district is so small that it can find pretty good accommodations in a private room; and such accommodations may seem to be all that can be required for it at present; but it is subjected to the inconvenience of being removed from one side of the district to the other; and as the scholars are young, a part of them receive the benefit of only one-half of the school. Under the care of Miss Wingate, this school received good instruction, and was found in an improved state at its close.

The old school-house, the sad memorial of their former prosperity,—on which the inhabitants of this district have been accustomed to look with conscious pride, as the place where they were prepared to perform the duties of useful citizens, — has been laid in ruins. In some mysterious providence, a bolt from the clouds was commissioned to smite it, or some ruthless incendiary, with a malignant spirit, dared to kindle the



devouring flame by which it was consumed. It is hoped that such a loss will be speedily repaired.

Winter school, length, 12 weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 4.

Teacher of the summer term, Miss Sarah E. Sanborn. Miss Sanborn was very active in her efforts to impart instruction and promote the interests of her school. She was successful, to a good degree, in awakening an interest in her pupils; their general improvement was good.

Teacher of the winter term, Mr. Augustus W. Wiggin. This was the first trial of a new teacher. His success was such as to afford evidence of his ability to become a very useful teacher.

It is thought that no injury would have been inflicted on their pupils had both these teachers been a little more firm and energetic as disciplinarians.

Summer school, length, 7 weeks. Winter school, length, 8 weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 5.

This district had but one term. Teacher, Miss Ada M. Wentworth. This was the third or fourth time the same teacher has had charge of this school. This fact alone is evidence of her good success in teaching. It is the largest school in town, and furnishes work sufficient to tax the energies of the most active teacher. It was visited by the Committee and by the County Commissioner, and was found in a state of progress. In the good order of the school, and in the promptness of the pupils in their recitations, there was evidence of the persevering diligence and faithfulness of the teacher, and of the diligent application of her pupils. Several scholars, for their studious habits and unusual progress, are worthy of special commendation. Winter school, length, 14 weeks.

## DISTRICT No. 6.

Teacher of the summer term, Miss Betsey F. Calley. Miss Calley has been employed repeatedly by this district, and has uniformly given good satisfaction. Her school was visited at its commencement, and was found in a well-organized and prosperous state. No notice was given of its close.

Teacher of the winter term, Mr. Charles H. Weeks. This was the first school in which his aptness to teach and his skill in governing was put to a test. When the school was first visited it was thought that with the kind coöperation of the older pupils, the teacher might render himself useful; but a spirit of insubordination was soon visible in its operations, and the school was reduced to a state of disorder.

It was visited by the Committee and by citizens of the district, who made a careful examination of the state of the school, and by them it was recommended that the school should be continued in operation, that order should be immediately restored and maintained, and that the penalty of the law should be inflicted on any scholars who should again become insubordinate. It was unfortunate for the teacher that his first trial should be made in so large a school, where there is a peculiar demand for the promptness and energy of an experienced teacher; especially is it so, if, as it was testified in the meeting of the district, a preconcerted plan to interrupt the school had been formed. This fact is significant, though not entirely original in this district.

The strange inconsistency and wicked folly of such a plan, wherever originated, must be condemned by every virtuous citizen. The teacher was partially deficient in discipline, but let not all the wrong be charged upon him.

The school contains a class of scholars that are capable of good attainments. They need to make the most of the limited advantages that are afforded them in the district school. The district contains parents, too, who are the firm advocates of good

order, and let their counsels be united in sustaining order, and in providing suitable accommodations for their school, and it may become one of the best in the town. Summer school, length, 8 weeks. Winter school, length, 7 weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 7.

Teacher of the summer term, Miss Betsey F. Calley. Miss Calley has kept this school and that in the adjoining district, for several years in succession. She fully sustained the well-earned reputation of a successful teacher. Her methods of teaching and governing are such as are adapted to secure the confidence of her pupils, and excite them to diligent application.

Teacher of the winter term, Miss Lucy E. Moulton. Miss Moulton is an experienced teacher. Her school was found in a well-regulated and prosperous state when visited at its commencement. The Committee received no notice of its close. Summer school, length, 6 weeks. Winter school, length, 8 weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 8.

Teacher of the summer term, Miss Ellen R. Burley. This school is small in the summer, composed principally of young scholars. It was the first school kept by Miss Burley, and in her own district. She gave general satisfaction. The school was thought to be profitable. Teacher of the winter term, Miss Laura A. Tibbets. Under the care of Miss Tibbets this school received a new impulse. Good discipline was maintained, and a laudable ambition for improvement was awakened in her pupils.

Several large scholars joined the school near its close, and they, aided by parents, provided means to prolong the school six weeks after the winter term. The register of this teacher affords evidence of an unusual degree of punctuality and constancy in the attendance of pupils, and of a commendable interest manifested in the school by parents and citizens. The

school was visited by some one or more during every week of the term, except one. Let such an example be imitated in every district, and the good results will soon be visible. Summer term, length, 9 weeks. Winter term, length, 11 weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 9.

Teacher of summer term, Mrs. Elizzie J. Huzzy, a well qualified and successful teacher. Under the good instruction of Mrs. Huzzy the discipline and progress of the school were all that could be reasonably expected.

The winter school was kept by Miss E. J. Henderson. When this school was first visited, it was found in a well-organized and prosperous state. The teacher was active and earnest in her work, and her methods of teaching were thought to be very good. There was evidence, too, at the last examination, of an awakened interest and of progress in the school; and yet there were indications of an insubordinate spirit that had been operating in the school, and partially interrupting its prosperity.

The teacher was untiring in her efforts to promote the best interests of her pupils, but failed partially in her discipline. This district has a private school now in operation. The active interest and liberal spirit manifested here by parents and citizens for a few years past, have produced results that may now be witnessed in an improved state of their school. It is on the advance. These results will be yet more fully manifested when, by a still increased liberality, a better house is provided for the accommodation of the school. Summer school, length, 8 weeks. Winter school, length,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 10.

The teacher of both summer and winter terms in this district — Miss Lizzie E. Cotton. Both schools were short, but profitable. The teacher was successful in awakening an interest in her pupils, and inspiring in them some love for improve-



ment. At the close of each term there was evidence of commendable progress. Summer school, length, 6 weeks. Winter school, length, 7 weeks.

#### DISTRICT No. 11.

This district is a new organization, comprising a few families who have had their first school in operation during the past winter. The school was kept by Miss M. E. Stevens, in a private room. When this little school was visited it was found in a very orderly and prosperous state, under the kind and faithful care of Miss Stevens, who here made her first trial in teaching.

Your Committee has doubted the expediency of increasing the number of school districts in town, and would rather encourage an effort to diminish the number, by effecting the union of several small districts with larger ones that are contiguous. But the peculiar situation of the families that constitute this new district, seems to justify their claim. Winter school, length,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  weeks.

Whole number of scholars attending summer schools, including eight districts, 208; average attendance, 177.

Whole number attending winter schools, 348; average attendance, 268.

It will be perceived, from this imperfect examination of the work that has been accomplished by the district schools the past year, that they are still encumbered with some defects; but who may not at the same time discover that they are instrumental in their operations of great good? What better equivalent for the expenditure of seven hundred and forty-one dollars can be returned to the wealth of the town, than the amount of improvement and cultivation bestowed on the intelligent minds of children and youth, through the agency of the district schools? Whatever defects may be charged upon them, or whatever deficiencies may be discovered in teachers and agents by whom they are controlled, they are still of incalculable importance in the community.

The system by which they are established and sustained, operates with impartial kindness, and extends the blessings to be conferred to every class, and carries an elevating influence to every family. Free and genial, like the showers that water the plains, it causes instruction to distill upon the minds of youth, and cheers the heart of the lowly. We will love "the common school as it is"—not for its faults, but with its faults, and for the blessings it communicates. It is worthy of confidence, of patronage, of the best services of the wise and honorable.

By what means can the common schools in our own community be improved and rendered more efficient in their operations?

It was thought by your Committee, when he resumed the responsibilities of his office, that it would be for the benefit of the schools to introduce a new series of reading books.

Such a change had been recommended by the Committee of last year. One district had already adopted a new series of readers.

After but a partial examination of Tower's series of readers, relying somewhat on the Board of Education, who had stricken from their list Sargent's series, it was thought proper to recommend Tower's series of readers, together with Tower's grammar, and Colton & Fitch's geography. These books we still regard as a judicious selection. They have been but partially introduced into the schools. The past winter has not been the most favorable time for making such a change, as it must necessarily be the occasion of some expense; but it is essential to the best interests of schools that it should be made soon. Parents and citizens may be assured that there is no mere love of change that can induce the Committee to recommend new books, and thus become the occasion of some additional expense. It has been done with the belief that the best interests of the schools may be promoted in this way. Books are the tools of scholars. When the trade of the mechanic or the arts of husbandry are to be learned, no judicious parent will grudge the expense of tools.

It is thought that our schools might be rendered more efficient in their operations if they were supplied with better accommodations. But who wishes to hear anything more on this subject? A warfare against *old school houses* was commenced years ago, and it has been continued without any cessation of hostilities. They have been treated, not as benefactors of the race, but as enemies to the improvements of the age. They have been assailed with the sharpened arrows of wit, with ridicule, and with every weapon that could be invented for their destruction.

They have been treated most villainously in the attacks made upon them by some public lecturers; but they are not yet all demolished. Those, at least, in our own town, stand up in their places still, presenting a weather beaten-aspect, like old soldiers after the battle, not at all dismayed.

But it is manifest that they bear marks of hard usage, and like everything else material, are destined to destruction.

Let a different method of carrying on this warfare be adopted. Let the citizens of one district only make a movement in the right direction, and displace an old house by a new one, worthy in all respects, of the purpose for which it is erected, and the results of such liberality — we might say *economy*, will soon be made manifest. They will be seen in an improved state of that school. It will have an influence upon the teacher and the pupils. It will tend to awaken a deeper sense of their responsibility, and quicken their energies, as well as promote their comfort. But the good influence of such an example will extend further, and the old house in one district after another will be demolished or remodeled, and a work will at length be accomplished, that will most essentially promote the interests of our schools.

May such a work be commenced speedily. It is a work of absolute necessity. It is true, that under all the embarrassments and discomforts that must now be encountered, good teachers may, with untiring assiduity, impart instruction and confer inestimable favors; but they cannot do all that ought



to be accomplished in their work. The cultivation of good manners, and habits of order and neatness, we regard as of some importance in the education of youth; but teachers cannot attempt this with very great hope of success, in some of the houses in which schools must now be accommodated. When improvements are made to render private dwellings, not only more convenient, but more elegant, is it right — is it honorable, for citizens in this community to look on and see their schools abandoned to such miserable accommodations as are now furnished in districts No. 1 and No. 2?

But there are other means that ought to be more effectually employed for the elevation of our schools. The importance of the united and more active coöperation of parents and teachers, and all who share a part in the responsibility, has often been urged, but never has it been sufficiently felt. All complain of faults in our schools, and perhaps all are the occasion of faults; but censured teachers are sometimes doomed, “like scape-goats, to bear the sins of the people.”

Teachers have assigned to them a work of momentous importance. It is attended with many difficulties and discouragements. It is theirs to give the first direction to young adventurers in the pilgrimage of earth, and while yet in a state of comparative innocence and simplicity to guide them into the paths of knowledge and virtue. They have duties to perform that are sacred — they supply the first wants of the mind and heart — they lay the foundation of a fair fabric — they sow seed in the richest soil.

Never should they engage in such a work without a due sense of their responsibility.

They should seek the best qualifications. They owe it to themselves — to their pupils and patrons. There is that in the circumstances of the age which demands it. We regard it as very important that the teachers in this town, and all who are expecting to become teachers, should attend the Teachers' Institute, which holds a session in our County annually. The Secretary of the Board testifies in regard to those who fail to



do this, "that they are neglecting the best means the State affords for their professional improvement." We think it of so much importance that teachers should secure the advantages of the Institute, that it would be better to suspend the operations of schools that may have commenced before the meeting of the Institute. It is now manifest that those teachers who have enjoyed such advantages, other things being equal, perform their work with the best success. They acquire some knowledge of the most approved methods of giving instruction; and while listening to the counsels and illustrations of experienced educators, they receive a new impulse, and become more prompt in their duty. Let all who aspire to this responsible employment, see to it they make some right appreciation of the teacher's work. They need good literary qualifications, without which they can never lay a good foundation for useful character. But this is not all; it is made their duty to impart instruction to minds that have not only an earthly mission to perform, but an endless destination. They must give moral instruction, and teach the principles of religion as they are inculcated in the language of scripture. There are more sad failures in this part of the teacher's duty than in any other; and the consequences are disastrous. It is here especially that teachers need the kind coöperation of parents.

Parents who have a regard to the best interests of their children cannot fail to place some value on moral and religious instruction. It is through their instrumentality that common schools are to be made schools of good morals. Is there not a criminal neglect of duty on the part of parents? But very few in town take any pains to make themselves acquainted with the state of the schools in which their children are receiving their education. We are happy, however, to notice a few instances in which this duty has been discharged, and to be assured of the good results. It has encouraged the teacher, and awakened a deeper interest in scholars, and we doubt not, been a source of high satisfaction to the parents. Let all parents do this, and we shall soon obtain what is so much needed in

behalf of district schools ; that is, the general and effective co-operations of parents with teachers. Their sympathies will be enlisted in behalf of the teacher, who is found toiling faithfully for their children ; and as they do this, they will soon discover the necessity of providing some better accommodations for the school.

Parents who feel so deep an interest in their children, and manifest such tender care, and provide for them a pleasant home, cannot, we think, often visit the school and find their children forming a character for future usefulness, in a dingy, smoky, dirty, comfortless room, and not become dissatisfied. There are others still, on whom we may not bind the claims that fasten on parental affections, whose coöperation in behalf of common schools is needed ; they are citizens who sustain honorable relations in the community, and to whom we may appeal as patrons of learning, as patriots and Christians, who need not be told that the generation of children and youth now connected with the public schools, have before them a high destination. We are reaching a crisis in the history of our nation. How will the generation that is to live after us be prepared to meet it. How will their intellectual and moral character be formed upon a right model, if common schools are not made more efficient in their operations ?

What other enterprise in which the wise and honorable are expending their resources and wasting their energies, is more worthy of patronage and unremitted toil. This enterprise by which our schools are sustained in operation, has an important relation to the State. It is by their agency that civil and religious institutions have been preserved to our nation during past generations, and it is by the same agency that they are to be perpetuated.

Who can estimate the irreparable loss that must be sustained, and the calamities that will ensue, if public schools are neglected, and the mass of intelligent minds are left to be corrupted with ignorance and vice ? Such a criminal disregard of duty would become the forfeit of the rich inheritance, so long

enjoyed. Let us then, as citizens and Christians, who hold responsible relations, and act in view of their accountability to God, see to it that the duties we owe to the rising generation are faithfully discharged.

NATHANIEL BARKER,

*Superintending School Committee of Wakefield.*

WAKEFIELD, March 1, 1858.









